

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-28 are currently pending following this Amendment.

Summary of the Office Action of January 30, 2004

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 13-16 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 17 and 20 stand rejected, and claims 2-4, 6-12, 18-19, and 21-28 are objected to, but, as indicated in the Office Action, would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Amendments to the Claims

In response to the Office Action of January 30, the applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claim 2, and claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been canceled in favor of this amendment. Claims 3 and 4 have also been amended to change their dependency, so that each now depends from claim 1, rather than from canceled claim 2.

Claim 5, which depends from claim 1 and which was rejected by the Office Action, is now believed to be in condition for allowance; claim 1 having been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Because claim 5 now depends from a claim with allowable subject matter, claim 5 should also be in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 has been amended, consistent with the comments of the Office Action, to include the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 5. Claim 6 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, as are claims 7-12, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 6.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18, and claim 18 is canceled. Claim 17 is thus directed to patentable subject matter consistent with the comments of the Office Action. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from amended claim 17, rather than canceled claim 18.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17, from which it depended. The objection of the Office Action is thus addressed, and claim 21 is in condition for allowance. Moreover, claim 21 having been amended to meet the Examiner's objection, dependent claims 22-28, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21, are likewise allowable.

In re Appln. of White et al.
Application No. 10/045,572

Conclusion

The application as amended is consider in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, further issues remain upon consideration of this response to the Office Action of January 30, 2004, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles H. Mottier, Reg. No. 30,874
One of the Attorneys for Applicant(s)
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: April 29, 2004